

P21017.A02



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Masaaki NAKASHIMA
Appln. No. : 09/931,881
Filed : August 20, 2001

Group Art Unit: 2613

#3
DW
11/29/01

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For : IMAGING ELEMENT FOR ELECTRONIC ENDOSCOPES AND
ELECTRONIC ENDOSCOPE EQUIPPED WITH THE IMAGING
ELEMENT

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Technology Center 2600

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §§1.97-1.98, the Applicants hereby call the following document to the Examiner's attention:

U.S. Patent No. 5,427,087 to ITO et al., entitled "Structure of the Distal End Portion of an Endoscope", which issued on June 27, 1995.

A copy of the above-noted document is attached and has been listed on a PTO-1449 Form which is also attached hereto. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate space on the attached PTO-1449 Form and to return a copy of the Form to the Applicants with the next official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of this document.

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Applicants also call the following copending, commonly assigned application to the Examiner's attention:

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/624,604 to KIKUCHI et al. filed on July 25, 2000.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(iii), a copy of the specification, claims, and drawings of the above-mentioned co-pending application is attached hereto. The Examiner is, none-the-less, encouraged to review the file wrapper of this U.S. patent application at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. If for any reason the Examiner cannot locate the application, the Applicants will provide any requested materials, if possible.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Masaaki NAKASHIMA

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November 20, 2001
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